

Notice

Due to unforeseen audio difficulties, the April 24, 2008 Commission minutes contain a limited transcription of the proceedings. None of the questions by Commissioners or answers by MDOT staff is included in the transcription.

**LIMITED TRANSCRIPTION OF THE
MINUTES
MICHIGAN STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING
April 24, 2008
Lansing, Michigan**

Meeting noticed in accordance with Open Meetings Act, Public Act 267 of 1976.

Present: Ted B. Wahby, Chair
Linda Miller Atkinson, Vice Chair
Maureen Miller Brosnan, Commissioner
Jerrold M. Jung, Commissioner
James S. Scalici, Commissioner

Also Present: Kirk T. Steudle, Director
Jackie Shinn, Chief Deputy Director
Frank E. Kelley, Commission Advisor
Marneta Young, Commission Executive Assistant
Jerry Jones, Commission Auditor, Office of Commission Audit
Patrick Isom, Attorney General's Office, Transportation Division
John Friend, Bureau Director, Highway Delivery
John Polasek, Bureau Director, Highway Development
Myron Frierson, Bureau Director, Finance and Administration
Bill Shreck, Director, Office of Communications
Susan Mortel, Bureau Director, Transportation Planning
Tim Hoeffner, Administrator, Intermodal Policy
Mike Kapp, Administrator, Economic Development and Enhancement
Sharon Edgar, Administrator, Bureau of Passenger Transportation
Melvin Williams, Administrator, Freight Services and Safety Division
Carmine Palombo, Director, Transportation Programs, SEMCOG

A list of those people who attended the meeting is attached to the official minutes.

Chair Wahby called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Bureau of Aeronautics Auditorium in Lansing, Michigan.

I. COMMISSION BUSINESS

Commission Minutes

Chair Wahby entertained a motion for approval of the minutes from the joint meeting between the Michigan Aeronautics Commission and the State Transportation Commission of March 27, 2008.

Moved by Commissioner Atkinson, with support from Commissioner Scalici, to approve the minutes from the joint meeting between the Michigan Aeronautics Commission and the State Transportation Commission of March 27, 2008. Motion carried.

Chair Wahby entertained a motion for approval of the minutes from the regular State Transportation Commission meeting of March 27, 2008.

Moved by Commissioner Atkinson, with support from Commissioner Scalici, to approve the minutes from the regular State Transportation Commission meeting of March 27, 2008. Motion carried.

Chair Wahby read a letter (dated April 2, 2008) sent by Commissioner James R. Rosendall, Jr. in which he resigned from his position as a State Transportation Commission member effective April 21, 2008.

II. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT – DIRECTOR KIRK T. STEUDLE**

Director Steudle report focused on:

Transportation Funding Task Force (TF2)

Detailed information for both the Transportation Funding Task Force (TF2) and the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) can be found on the TF2 web page. The web page contains meeting schedules, minutes and committee resources and reports. The next TF2 meeting is scheduled for May 19th at the Michigan Laborers' Training and Apprenticeship Institute facility which is located at 5555 Cogswell, Wayne, Michigan (Wayne County). Topics will include trends impacting transportation.

Gretchen Driskell, representing Michigan Municipal League, has been named as Chairperson. The approved subcommittee structure consists of Intermodal, Aviation, Intermodal Freight, Intermodal Passenger, Highway, Road and Bridge.

The full CAC is in the process of scheduling their next meeting for June. All CAC subcommittees have met, scheduled meetings and made assignments to committee members. The committee meetings are as follows: Intermodal—May 27, 1:00-4:00 p.m. at the Horatio S. Earle Learning Center in Lansing; Aviation—May 1, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. at the Aero Aviation Services Conference Room; May 16, 2:00–4:00 p.m. at the Aero Aviation Services Conference Room, June 2 and 13, 2:00–4:00 p.m. at the Aero Commission Room; Intermodal Freight—May 2 and 16, June 2 and 13, 1:00–4:00 p.m. both at the Aero Auditorium; Intermodal Passenger—April 29, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., May 6, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., both at the Aero Auditorium, May 16, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. at the Horatio Earle Learning Center in Lansing; Highway, Road and Bridge—May 2 and 16, June 2 and 13, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. at the Aero Auditorium.

Additional information will be added to the TF2 website at www.michigan.gov/tf2 as it becomes available. Both the website and the email address are up and running. Detailed information for both the TF2 and the CAC can be found on the TF2 web page. The web page contains meeting schedules, minutes and committee resources and reports. We will also be able to take public comments on the website.

Director Steudle asked for questions.

III. **OVERSIGHT**

Commission Agreements (Exhibit A) – Myron Frierson

Mr. Frierson presented information on 18 agreements. Pending any questions, Mr. Frierson asked for approval of Exhibit A.

Chair Wahby announced that he was abstaining from the vote as it pertains to Item #9 (Highways—Amendatory Contract (2008-5163) between MDOT and the Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority).

Mr. Isom acknowledged the abstention of Chair Wahby from the vote as it pertains to Item #9.

Chair Wahby entertained a motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Brosnan and supported by Commissioner Atkinson to approve Exhibit A. Motion carried with 4 yes and 1 abstention.

Bid Letting Pre-Approvals (Exhibit A-1) – Myron Frierson

Mr. Frierson gave a brief recap of the April letting: For the lettings that occurred on April 4 and 11, 2008, 19 State projects with a total engineer's estimates of \$87.5 million were let. The low bids received on these projects totaled \$78.5 million. The average low bid for the 19 State projects let was \$4.13 million. The department's letting schedule has proceeded as planned. Leading up to and including the April lettings, 103.74% of the construction cost estimate of projects scheduled for this period has been let. In comparison for this same period through April 2007, 103.19% of the construction cost estimate of projects scheduled for the year was let. In addition to the State projects let in April, 52 Local program area items included projects in the Jobs Today program.

There are currently 12 State projects with engineer's estimates totaling \$26.34 million scheduled to be let on May 2, 2008. There are a total of 55 projects for the May 2nd letting with engineers' estimates of \$75.5 million.

Pending any questions, Mr. Frierson asked for approval of Exhibit A-1.

Chair Wahby entertained a motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Atkinson and supported by Commissioner Brosnan to approve the May bid letting. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Letting Exceptions Agenda (Exhibit A-2) – John Polasek

Mr. Polasek provided information on 5 State and 1 Local project that were over the engineers' estimates and 2 of them are accompanied by justification memos. Pending any questions, Mr. Polasek asked for approval of Exhibit A-2; no questions were forthcoming.

Chair Wahby entertained a motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Scalici and supported by Commissioner Brosnan to approve Exhibit A-2. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Contract Adjustments (Exhibit B) – John Friend

Mr. Friend announced that the department finalized out at \$232,952,209.68 for March 2008 in comparison to \$230,035,128.60 of the original contract cost.

Mr. Friend provided information for 9 MDOT and 6 Local projects. Extra 2008-045 and Overrun 2008-09 (102.49 acres of wetland mitigation...on Curtis Road...Little Prairie Hunt Club, Saginaw County) were previously withdrawn during the March 27, 2008 meeting pending more information, but are now part of this list of projects.

Mr. Friend mentioned that Overrun 2008-10, which is listed on the Department Projects Summary Sheet, is there by mistake (no write-up included) and should be disregarded.

Pending any questions, Mr. Friend asked for approval of Exhibit B.

Chair Wahby entertained a motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Brosnan and supported by Commissioner Scalici to approve Exhibit B. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

IV. **APPOINTMENTS**

Mr. Polasek provided information for Wayne A. Schoonover, County Highway Engineer with Ionia County Road Commission, to fill the remaining term vacated as a result of the passing of Robert J. Wellington (Tuscola) (counties with populations of 30,000 and less than 65,000). This appointment will last until December 31, 2008.

Pending any questions, Mr. Polasek asked for approval of the appointment.

Chair Wahby entertained a motion for the approval of the Local Bridge Advisory Board Appointment. Motion was made by Commissioner Atkinson and supported by Commissioner Scalici to approve the Appointment. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

V. **PRESENTATIONS**

Transportation Asset Management Council Annual Report – Carmine Palombo

Mr. Palombo acknowledged members of the Council. This presentation was shared with Steve Warren and focused on:

Accomplishments

The Council has collected four years of road and bridge condition data and has a uniform rating system for the entire state. There is continued emphasis on training and education as well as more user friendly technical tools. April 3, 2008, was our 3rd Annual Conference held in Lansing with another conference occurring on May 21st in Marquette. We are experiencing more communication with partners and more agencies participating in asset management.

Visibility

Public Act 199 of 2007 was passed by the legislature late last year. It reinforced the actions of the Council and clarified the language of Public Act 199 of 2002.

The Council has made presentations to the Transportation Funding Task Force and the data we have provided has been well received by the committee.

Road Conditions

Mr. Warren presented this portion of the presentation.

The law charges the Council with developing a statewide asset management strategy beginning with Michigan's federal aid system. This system consists of approximately 45,000 miles of Interstate highways and State highways as well as major county roads and city streets. The law also calls upon the Council to adopt a common rating method to assess the condition of Michigan's public roads. The Council has adopted the PASER system that rates roads according to surface distress on a 1 to 10 scale. Appropriate road repair fixes are then associated with three PASER rating categories of Good, Fair, Poor. The Council's strategy has been to encourage agencies to improve roads while in the Fair category because it is several times less expensive to repair roads at that time compared to when they deteriorate to the Poor category. Unfortunately, responses indicate that many agencies cannot afford to make these timely repairs due to declining revenues and the rising costs of routine maintenance.

Condition survey results from 2004 to 2007 show that with current levels of funding the federal aid road system is deteriorating at an alarming rate. Over the last four years, twice as many roads have deteriorated compared to those that have been repaired. Particularly troublesome is the fact that the portion of Poor roads has increased from 10.3% in 2004 to 24.2% in 2007. Roads falling into the Poor category requiring rehabilitation and reconstruction increased by 11,746 lane miles from 2004 to 2007. The additional investment now associated with this dramatic drop in system condition is nearly \$3 billion when total costs are compared between 2004 and 2007. This is primarily due to the fact that repair costs associated with Poor conditions are so much higher than costs associated with Fair conditions.

Summary Observations

Of particular concern is the rate of deterioration of roads in fair condition. Council is concerned about the impact of this past winter and its impact on funds targeted for CPM. It could have the impact of further postponing needed CPM activities. After 4 years of data collection, the trends are unmistakable: miles of good pavement is decreasing, miles of average pavement is decreasing, and miles of bad pavement is increasing. The TAMC is working with more and more agencies to develop transportation asset management programs. There is increased emphasis on education of local officials on benefits of the asset management approach, expanded training opportunities, improvement of communications between Council and all road agencies, and improvement of technical processes.

2008 Activities

Continue to enhance and expand education and training, aggressively pursue investment data from Act 51 agencies, enhance predictive model, and hold the 4th Annual Conference.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Wahby asked if any member of the audience wanted to address the Commission; none were forthcoming.

Chair Wahby asked if any Commissioner wanted to address the Commission; none were forthcoming.

Chair Wahby acknowledged that this is “Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day” and welcomed Marie Brosnan, daughter of Commissioner Brosnan, and Jordan Griffin, son of Marneta Young.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chair Wahby entertained a motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Brosnan and supported by Commissioner Atkinson for adjournment. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote. Chair Wahby declared the meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

The next full meeting of the Michigan State Transportation Commission will be held on May 29, 2008, in the 1st floor Bureau of Aeronautics Auditorium in Lansing, Michigan, commencing at the hour of 9:00 a.m.

Frank E. Kelley
Commission Advisor